

Press release
Geneva, November 9, 2025

2025 AWARD WINNERS: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 31ST GIFF

The 31st edition of the Geneva International Film Festival (GIFF) comes to an end, marking the start of a new decade driven by boldness and emotion. Over the past ten days, the GIFF has celebrated audiovisual storytelling in all its forms. Five works have been distinguished, highlighting the Festival's commitment to showcasing the best in contemporary audiovisual creation: *Un poeta* by Simón Mesa Soto in the International Feature Competition; *Requiem for Selina* by Emmeline Berglund in the International Series Competition; and *Reflections of Little Red Dot* by Chloé Lee in International Immersive Experience Competition. The convergent section Future Is Sensible honored *Ancestors* by Steye Hallema, while the Swiss Series Storytelling Award went to *The Deal*.

Prominent figures from the audiovisual world gathered in Geneva to grace the Festival with their presence, including Alan Ball, Claes Bang, Eva Crutzen, Benedikt Erlingsson, Sofia Essaïdi, Irène Jacob, Denis Lavant, Cyril Metzger, Pierre Monnard, Nathalie Nath, Karen Palmer and Sarah Spale. For the second consecutive year, the Swiss Series Storytelling Award recognized the best Swiss series script, with a prize offered by the SSA and Suissimage cultural funds, confirming the remarkable growth of Swiss serial storytelling.

Ten Days of Boundary-Pushing Audiovisual Creation

At the *Maison communale de Plainpalais*, the Festival's headquarters, and across multiple screening venues and online platforms, audiences once again turned out in force. Screenings such as *L'Inconnu de la Grande Arche*, *A Better Man*, *The Chronology of Water*, *Gourou*, *Intracables*, *Locus Solus*, and *Oxygen Masks Will Not Drop Automatically* were among audience favorites, reflecting enthusiasm for all forms of audiovisual storytelling. Presenting 85 works, including 53 Swiss premieres, the GIFF celebrated the richness of creative expression across cinema, series or immersive media.

The GIFF continues until Sunday November 9, and the series from the International Competition Series and Future Is Sensible remain available online at play.giff.ch until the end of the month. Recordings of the Geneva Digital Market (GDM) conferences will be made available to the public on GIFF's website in early 2026. Through its touring program GIFF Unlimited, the Festival will continue to engage audiences year-round. Consolidated attendance figures will be released later.

The GIFF launches a new decade of emotion, audacity and innovation, with **11% increase** for serial viewings attendance and **26% rise** in immersive program participation. See you in 2026 for another vibrant celebration of audiovisual storytelling, **October 30 to November 8, 2026**.

GDM: A Laboratory for the Future of Audiovisual Innovation

As Switzerland's premier hub for audiovisual innovation, the **Geneva Digital Market (GDM)** stands as the country's only professional event fully dedicated to this field. International experts and industry professionals gathered to discuss the sector's technological, creative, and strategic challenges. At the heart of its market activity, the GDM showcased **29 projects**, including **12 from Switzerland**, providing a concrete platform for new works while fostering networking, **matchmaking**, and early-stage co-financing opportunities. Beyond its market function, the GDM produces analytical reports and maps emerging trends, deepening understanding of the industry's evolution. This year's edition explored the use of mobile phones as creative tools, the impact of artificial intelligence on production, strategic and legal issues in serial storytelling, and how content adapts to evolving platforms, including a special conference marking *20 years of YouTube*. In 2025, **attendance at GDM conferences increased by 26%**.

2025 AWARD WINNERS

REFLET D'OR FOR BEST FEATURE FILM 2025

UN POETA | SIMÓN MESA SOTO | 2025 | CO, DE, SE | 120' | Swiss Premiere

Offered by the City and Canton of Geneva (CHF 10,000)

Awarded by a Jury composed of artist, author and filmmaker Kantarama Gahigiri (President, CH) and four film students from Swiss universities: Raphaël Jaques (UNIL), Pepe Harder (ZHdK), Maha Benraïs (SAE), Mariam Bitsadze (ECAL-HEAD).

REFLET D'OR FOR BEST SERIES 2025

REQUIEM FOR SELINA | EMMELINE BERGLUND | 2025 | NO | 6X34' | Swiss Premiere

Offered by the City and Canton of Geneva (CHF 10,000)

Awarded by an international Jury of experts: Nicolas Dufour (CH), Géraldine Gonard (ES), Adrian Illien (CH).

REFLET D'OR FOR BEST IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE 2025

REFLECTIONS OF LITTLE RED DOT | CHLOÉ LEE | 2025 | US, DE | 40' | VR | Swiss Premiere

Offered by the City and Canton of Geneva (CHF 10,000)

Awarded by an international Jury of experts: Karen Palmer (UK), Margot Mottaz (CH-USA), Hayoun Kwon (KR).

FUTURE IS SENSIBLE AWARD 2025

ANCESTORS | STEYE HALLEMA | 2024 | NL | 70' | Immersive performance | Swiss Premiere

Offered by the Migros Culture Percentage (CHF 10,000)

Awarded by a jury of three international figures active in the audiovisual and creative industries: Tibor de Jong (NL), Pascal Greco (CH), Thomas Imbach (CH).

SWISS SERIES STORYTELLING AWARD 2025

THE DEAL | JEAN-STÉPHANE BRON | 2025 | CH, FR, LU, BE | 6x46'

Award offered by SSA and Suissimage Cultural Funds (CHF 20,000)

Awarded by an independent Jury of three international TV industry figures: Ann Bergström (SE), Marianne Furevold-Boland (NO), Frédéric Lavigne (FR).

GIFF 31st GENEVA
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
31.10-9.11.2025

GDM 13th GENEVA
DIGITAL
MARKET
3-6.11.2025

FILM & BEYOND AWARD 2025

SIR STEPHEN FREARS

In association with the HEAD-Genève

SAVE THE DATE

October 3 - November 8 | GIFF 32nd edition

November 2 - 5 | GDM 14th edition

Contact

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